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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1 A data bit stream is segmented into 4-bit data words, and for each 4-bit data word a corresponding 3-bit code word is detected in a conversion table. 2 Two higher significant bits of each data word is converted to the detected 3 code word so that a channel bit stream formed by a series of such code words 4 has no consecutive 1's. A digital sum value of the channel bit stream is 5 determined and a search is made for a code word "010" which is consecutive 6 with a code word "000". The detected code word "010" is replaced with a 7 substitute code word "000" if the replacement results in the digital sum value 8 approaching zero. 9